



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

## Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: August 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA177

**EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH METROPOLITAN COUNCIL; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE & \$1.6 MILLION PROJECT**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice have reached agreement with the Metropolitan Council on alleged clean-air violations at its Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul, MN. The agreement includes a \$250,000 civil penalty and a \$1.6 million environmental project.

The agreement resolves a civil complaint filed in July 1999 alleging the plant had failed stack tests, and had released uncontrolled emissions from emergency bypass stacks and from faulty dampers that seal vents to the emergency bypass stacks.

In addition to the civil penalty, Metropolitan Council has agreed to install a \$1.6 million dry electrostatic precipitator in the air-pollution control train on one of its new incinerators. Metropolitan Council has estimated the precipitator will remove about 40 percent of the particulates (smoke, dust, ash) from its air emissions.

- more -

During agreement negotiations, Metropolitan Council designed and installed new dampers and seals on emergency dampers, for the emergency stacks on its multiple hearth incinerators. The dampers and seals were designed to prevent leakage of particulates when the dampers are closed.

Metropolitan Council has agreed to expedite construction and installation of new fluidized bed incinerators that it has said will cost \$200 million. Until the incinerators are installed, Metropolitan Council has agreed to:

- \* develop and implement a procedure to maintain alarms related to damper openings;
- \* take appropriate corrective measures to prevent an emergency damper opening;
- \* train its operators;
- \* develop a plan to inspect and maintain all components of the wastewater treatment plant;
- \* notify EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of each emergency damper opening;
- \* restrict sludge-feed rates to the incinerators; and
- \* take additional measures that EPA determines are necessary.

EPA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons said, "We are pleased that the Metropolitan Council has agreed to take these very significant steps to protect public health and the environment in the Twin Cities. EPA stands ready to assist the council in its efforts."

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\*\*\* TRANSMISSION REPORT \*\*\*

AUG-09-00 10:05 ID:

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|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|
| JOB NUMBER        | 042             |                   |      |
| INFORMATION CODE  | OK              |                   |      |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER  | 916126645788    |                   |      |
| NAME(ID NUMBER)   | 612 664 5788    |                   |      |
| START TIME        | AUG-09-00 10:04 |                   |      |
| PAGES TRANSMITTED | 003             | TRANSMISSION MODE | EMMR |
| RESOLUTION        | STD             | REDIALING TIMES   | 00   |
| SECURITY          | OFF             | MAILBOX           | OFF  |
| MACHINE ENGAGED   | 00'50           |                   |      |

THIS TRANSMISSION IS COMPLETED.

LAST SUCCESSFUL PAGE 003

\*\*\* TRANSMISSION REPORT \*\*\*

AUG-09-00 10:06 ID:

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|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|
| JOB NUMBER        | 043             |                   |      |
| INFORMATION CODE  | OK              |                   |      |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER  | 916126645787    |                   |      |
| NAME(ID NUMBER)   | 612 664 5786    |                   |      |
| START TIME        | AUG-09-00 10:05 |                   |      |
| PAGES TRANSMITTED | 003             | TRANSMISSION MODE | EMMR |
| RESOLUTION        | STD             | REDIALING TIMES   | 00   |
| SECURITY          | OFF             | MAILBOX           | OFF  |
| MACHINE ENGAGED   | 00'49           |                   |      |

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\*\*\* TRANSMISSION REPORT \*\*\*

AUG-11-00 12:44 ID:

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INFORMATION CODE OK  
TELEPHONE NUMBER 916123402807  
NAME (ID NUMBER) 6123402807  
START TIME AUG-11-00 12:43  
PAGES TRANSMITTED 003 TRANSMISSION MODE EMMR  
RESOLUTION STD REDIALING TIMES 00  
SECURITY OFF MAILBOX OFF  
MACHINE ENGAGED 00'46

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LAST SUCCESSFUL PAGE 003

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Date: August 10, 2000  
FAX Recipient: Bob Cattanach, Esq.  
Ross Antonson, Esq.  
Dorsey & Whitney  
FAX Number: (612) 340-2807  
My Phone: (312) 886-6237  
My FAX Number: (312) 886-0747  
Pages: 2 + cover  
Subject: Press Release for Met Council CD

Message:

Dear Bob and Ross:

Attached please find the press release which EPA intends to issue for the Met Council CD once the CD is lodged later this afternoon. Thank you for your efforts to make this a smooth process.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. Thank you.

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Date: August 9, 2000

FAX Recipients: Fred Siekert Diana Case  
AUSA U.S. Attorney's Office

FAX Numbers: (612) 664-5788 (612) 664-5787

My Phone: (312) 886-6237

My FAX Number: (312) 886-0747

Pages: 2 + cover

Subject: Metro CD Press Release

Message:

Dear Fred and Diana:

Attached please find a draft press release which we intend to issue once the Met CD is lodged on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Fred, please let me know what time the CD is lodged on Thursday, and I will immediately notify Met Council and our press office; we are optimistic that this filing will go more smoothly than the complaint! If you have any questions, please give me a call. Thank you!